

U.S. Serial No. 09/942,700

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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) [[A]] An automated method performed on an information processing system for providing information services ~~comprising a means for controlling brokering and booking resources for offering a service (the means will be referred to as in which a brokering means hereinafter) intervening intervenes~~ between resources for information processing services ~~to be offered by a plurality of providers of the resources for information processing services and administrators of operating information service systems including computer platforms (both the providers and administrators will be referred to as service resource providers hereinafter)~~ and users of said resources, said ~~brokering means holding credit data including resource performance data for the resource providers, said brokering means~~ method comprising the steps of:

~~receiving~~ inputting performance request specifications of said resources for a user-desired service from the user;

simulating estimated service performance of said resources, based on said request specifications and said credit data including resource performance data, thereby allocating one or more combinations of ~~serviceable~~ said resources that satisfy, in the aggregate, said request

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specifications;

~~issuing~~ outputting a resource reservation ticket to the user, the ticket including data that entitles the user to utilize said one or more combinations of said resources based on said allocation; and

placing an order with the service resource providers for said one or more combinations of said resources, thereby booking the ordered resources for the user.

2. (Currently amended) The automated method ~~for providing information services~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein said brokering means ~~executes simulation of the performance of resources, based on the user's request specifications, allocates the adequately performing resources of one or more resource providers, according to the result of the simulation, determines what quantity of~~ said resources that fulfill are necessary and sufficient for fulfilling said request specifications, and a time during which function and resources are required to run[[,]], ~~and issues the resource reservation ticket, according to the allocation,~~

wherein the ~~brokering means will~~ outputting step is performed to issue the respective resource reservation tickets to a plurality of service users; ~~(customers); moreover,~~

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wherein, after successfully reserving the resources, the brokering means sends the service performance request specifications, based on which the resources have been reserved, to the service resource providers of the allocated resources[[,]]₁ and

wherein, when the service resource providers determine their service resources required to execute the service in the future, the brokering means compares available function and resources and required function and resources for a specific period₁ and manages the thus obtained data to decide whether the service providers can provide additional service performance resources.

3. (Currently amended) The automated method ~~for providing information services~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein data to be written to the resource reservation ticket ~~to be traded~~ includes a requested service type and service performance data in which ~~a maximum time and average time estimated to be taken~~ reserved time to execute the information processing service are specified₁ and the brokering means performs at least either estimating whether the service provider resources can execute the information processing service described in the performance request specifications or

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estimating how well the service provider resources satisfy the performance request specifications.

4. (Currently amended) The automated method for ~~providing information services~~ as recited in claim 1, further including a means for step of re-estimating the performance of service provider resources for an additional order, ~~said means to re-calculate resource performance specification parameters necessary and sufficient for executing the information processing service specified in the user's performance request specifications and present the presenting data of the~~ calculated performance specification parameters to the service resource providers if said brokering means estimates that the resources cannot execute the information processing service specified in the performance request specifications within ~~the maximum~~ a predetermined reserved time.

5. (Currently amended) The automated method for ~~providing information services~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~the reliability of~~ further comprising the steps of evaluating the service providers ~~is evaluated~~ by comparing the guaranteed service performance of the reserved resources and the service performance during or after the actual run of the resources;

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and

recording the evaluation output data ~~is recorded~~ as part of the credit data.

6. (Currently amended) The automated method ~~for providing information services~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein, further comprising the steps of:

if one or more allocated resources on computer platforms become unable to operate when executing the service, switching from the resources of relatively low reliability service performance to other resources of relatively high reliability service performance ~~is performed~~ by dynamically gaining access to the credit data, thereby providing run-time endorsement of the resource reservation ticket.

7. (Currently amended) The automated method ~~for providing information services~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein said brokering means determines whether the resources can provide the service from the performance data of the resource providers' computer platforms required to execute the service, while taking the providers' credit evaluation into consideration by referring to the credit management data.

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8. (Currently amended) The automated method ~~for~~ ~~providing information services~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein said brokering means edits the performance request specifications data for an information processing service electronically sent from the user of the information processing service into resource reservation data for assigning the resource run tasks to the resource providers, according to the information processing service type[[,]]_i electronically sends said resource reservation data to the appropriate resource providers[[,]]_i issues the resource reservation ticket created with the input of said resource reservation data[[,]]_i and stores the resource reservation data into a storage medium for management.

9. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ An apparatus for reserving and managing information service resources, comprising:

a plurality of brokering systems arranged in a multilevel hierarchical structure, each brokering system including a resource management table, means for registration, and a storage medium, arranged such that lower-level brokering systems gain access to an upper-level brokering system as a user of the brokering system[[,]]_i

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wherein the resource management table of the upper-level brokering system contains partial data, a copy of the relevant part of Service Level Management data, resource reservation data, credit management data for service resource providers which are maintained in the lower-level brokering systems[[,]];

wherein a top level brokering system includes a brokering means that executes the method recited in ~~at least one of~~ claims 1; ~~to 8~~ and

wherein group-bounded service request specifications data, and users service request specifications input to the lower-level brokering systems are collected as said group-bounded service request specifications data on the top-level brokering system.

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus for authenticating an authorized service user, comprising:

a means for authorized service user authentication which authenticates that the user is authorized to use a service by verifying the validity of ~~[[the]]~~ a user's resource reservation ticket issued to guarantee the right of the service user and the performance of the resources to execute the service[[,]];

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a first storage means to store said resource reservation
ticket data[[,]];

a second storage means to store resource allocation
information[[,]];

a means for communication between said first storage
means and second storage means[[,]] and

a means for verifying certificate data which executes a
predetermined arithmetic processing based on a previously
determined and stored algorithm for encryption/decryption and
other security purposes for the reservation data and resource
allocation data, and which verifies the validity of the
resource reservation.